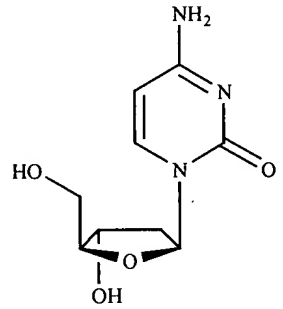
In the Claims

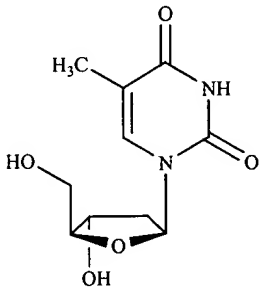
Please cancel claims 1-2, 4-6 and 11-12; amend claims 3 and 7-10 and add claims 13-34, as set out below.

13. (Once Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of β-L-2'-deoxycytidine of the formula:



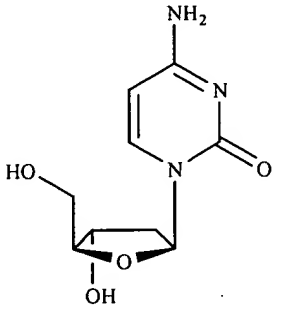
or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Once Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of β-L-thymidine of the formula:

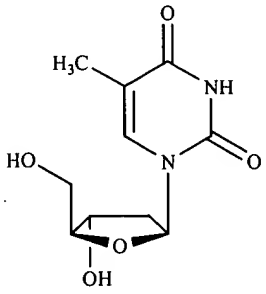


or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

38. (Once Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a combination of the following nucleosides:

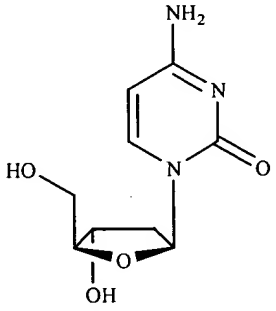


and



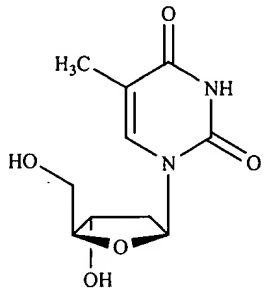
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

39. (Once Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of β-L-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (3TC), *cis*-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (FTC), β-L-2'-fluoro-5-methyl-arabino~~furanolyl~~-uridine (L-FMAU), β-D-2,6-diaminopurine dioxolane (DAPD), famciclovir, penciclovir, 2-amino-1,9-dihydro-9-[4-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methylenecyclopentyl]-6H-purin-6-one (entecavir, BMS-200475), 9-[2-(phosphono-methoxy)ethyl]adenine (PMEA, adefovir, dipivoxil); lobucavir, ganciclovir and ribavirin.

5 ~~10~~. (Once Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of β-L-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (3TC), *cis*-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (FTC), β-L-2'-fluoro-5-methyl-arabinofuranolyl uridine (L-FMAU), β-D-2,6-diaminopurine dioxolane (DAPD), famciclovir, penciclovir, 2-amino-1,9-dihydro-9-[4-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methylenecyclopentyl]-6H-purin-6-one (entecavir, BMS-200475), 9-[2-(phosphono-methoxy)ethyl]adenine (PMEA, adefovir, dipivoxil); lobucavir, ganciclovir and ribavirin.

6 ~~13~~. (New) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the β-L-2'-deoxycytidine is at least 95% in its designated enantiomeric form.

7 ~~14~~. (New) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the β-L-2'-deoxycytidine is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8 ~~15~~. (New) The method of claim ~~14~~ 7, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

9 ~~16.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~14~~ 7, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

10 ~~17.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~14~~ 7, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

11 ~~18.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~14~~ 7, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

12 ~~19.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~14~~ 7, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

13 ~~20.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~14~~ 7, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

Cl 4 cont'd

14 ~~21.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~14~~ 7, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit.

15 ~~22.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~21~~ 14, wherein the dosage unit contains 10 to 1500 mg of the compound.

16 ~~23.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~21~~ 14 or ~~22~~ 15, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

17 ~~24.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~7~~ 2, wherein the β-L-thymidine is at least 95% in its designated enantiomeric form.

18 ~~25.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~7~~ 2, wherein the β-L-thymidine is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.